

Senate Bill 175  
January 13, 2009  
Presented by Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement  
Senate Highways and Transportation Committee

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION	
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>1</u>
DATE:	<u>1/13/09</u>
BILL NO.	<u>SB 175</u>

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jim Kropp, Law Enforcement Chief, of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP stands in opposition to SB175 due to the negative fiscal impacts associated with implementing current language within the bill. Reduction to funding of the snowmobile decal, OHV decal, snowmobile grooming, community grants, and the Boat safety program will reduce the ability for the department to perform safety inspections and enforcement operations. The boat decal funding is used as a match for our federal Coast Guard program. Loss of this match will not allow us to maximize the usage of federal funding.

In addition within the parks program, this bill would reduce funds going to the operation and maintenance of state parks from recreational decal fees. These monies are part of services including latrine pumping, weed spraying, and other basic parks operations.